

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:
a central member attached to a steering column;
an outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber, wherein the outer rim generally encircles the central member; and
a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid dampens vibration during steering wheel use, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of an entire volume of the internal chamber, wherein particles are disposed within the fluid, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber, wherein the sealable hole allows adjustment of the type or volume of the fluid over the life of the vehicle, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

Claim 2 (original): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the internal chamber is continuous such that the fluid flows in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction from each point within the internal chamber.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a volume selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle.

Claims 4-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a viscosity selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a weight selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): The steering wheel of claim 1, further comprising at least one solid mass disposed within the fluid, wherein the solid mass is different from the particles.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to provide a predetermined inertia for the outer rim.

Claim 12 (original): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid remains in a liquid state between approximately minus 40° Fahrenheit and approximately plus 194° Fahrenheit.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The steering wheel of claim 13, further comprising a removable plug sized to be seated in the hole.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A steering wheel, comprising:
a central member attached to a steering column;
an outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber, wherein the outer rim generally encircles the central member; and
a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid dampens vibration during steering wheel use, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of an entire volume of the internal chamber, and wherein the internal chamber is continuous such that the fluid may flow in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction from each point within the internal chamber, wherein at least one solid mass is disposed within the fluid, wherein the outer rim comprises a

sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber, wherein the sealable hole allows adjustment of the type or volume of the fluid over the life of the vehicle, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

Claim 16 (original): The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the outer rim is generally circular.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising particles disposed within the fluid, wherein the solid mass is different from the particles.

Claims 19-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): The steering wheel of claim 15 ~~20~~, further comprising a removable plug sized to be seated in the hole.

Claim 22 (original): The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the internal chamber is disposed entirely within the outer rim.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of a vehicle.

Claim 25 (original): The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to provide a predetermined inertia for the outer rim.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:

a central member attached to a steering column of a vehicle;

a generally circular outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber; and

a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of an entire volume of the internal chamber, and wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle, wherein the internal chamber is continuous such that the fluid may flow in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction from each point within the internal chamber, wherein the internal chamber is disposed entirely within the outer rim, wherein particles are disposed within the fluid, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber, wherein the sealable hole allows adjustment of the type or volume of the fluid over the life of the vehicle, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

Claims 27-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): The steering wheel of claim 26, further comprising at least one solid mass disposed within the fluid, wherein the solid mass is different from the particles.

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (original): The steering wheel of claim 26, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:
central member means for attachment to a steering column;

outer rim means for connection to the central member means, the outer rim means having an internal chamber, wherein the outer rim means generally encircles the central member means;

a damping means disposed within the internal chamber for damping vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle, wherein the damping means comprises a fluid that occupies less than an entire volume of the internal chamber, wherein the damping means occupies less than an entire volume of the central member means, wherein particles are disposed within the damping means, wherein the outer rim means comprises a sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber, wherein the sealable hole allows adjustment of the type or volume of the fluid over the life of the vehicle, wherein the dampening means is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

Claim 33 (new): A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:

a central member attached to a steering column;

an outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber, wherein the outer rim generally encircles the central member; and

a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid dampens vibration during steering wheel use, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of an entire volume of the internal chamber, wherein particles are disposed within the fluid, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof, and further comprising a removable plug sized to be seated in the hole.

Claim 34 (new): The steering wheel of claim 33, wherein the internal chamber is continuous such that the fluid flows in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction from each point within the internal chamber.

Claim 35 (new): The steering wheel of claim 33, wherein the sealable hole allows adjustment of the type or volume of the fluid over the life of the vehicle.

Claim 36 (new): The steering wheel of claim 33, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity and weight selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle.

Claim 37 (new): The steering wheel of claim 1, further comprising at least one solid mass disposed within the fluid, wherein the solid mass is different from the particles.

Claim 38 (new): The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to provide a predetermined inertia for the outer rim.

Claim 39 (new): A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:
a central member attached to a steering column;
an outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber, wherein the outer rim generally encircles the central member; and
a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid dampens vibration during steering wheel use, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of an entire volume of the internal chamber, wherein particles are disposed within the fluid, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof, wherein the sealable hole allows the type or volume of the fluid to be adjusted if needed during the life of the vehicle.